

# NEEDS ASSESSMENT

2024 – 2026



# Message from the Executive Director



**Rebecca Lyman**

Interim Executive Director  
Abbeville County First  
Steps

As the Interim Executive Director of Abbeville County First Steps I am looking forward to being a part of the impact Abbeville County First Steps and its partnerships make in this community. I believe creating strong ties and relationships within the community will only further Abbeville County's success in reaching as many parents and children as possible. Pinpointing the needs of our community is my main goal. I know this is just the start of many great things to come and I will continue to ensure that the parents and children of this community are positively impacted by this organization in more ways than one.

*Rebecca Lyman*

# Needs Assessment Process

## CONVENE

Held **two** community convenings with 10 participants and developed a vision for young children and their families

October 2022 – January 2023



## UNDERSTAND

Reviewed local data and map assets to understand the state of young children, their families, and the early childhood system

October 2022 – March 2023

## PRIORITIZE

Organized the insight gathered from the convenings and data to prioritize the concerns, needs, and gaps the partnership wants to address and formalized Needs Assessment

January 2023 – March 2023

**“Let’s help Abbeville County First Steps get the message out about services we can provide to the families who need it the most”**

**-Lou Paradis**

**“We are working to close the gap for families in Abbeville County”**

**-Adrienne Padner**

# Asset Map



# **Priorities:** Summary

## **1. Increase Kindergarten Ready Rate**

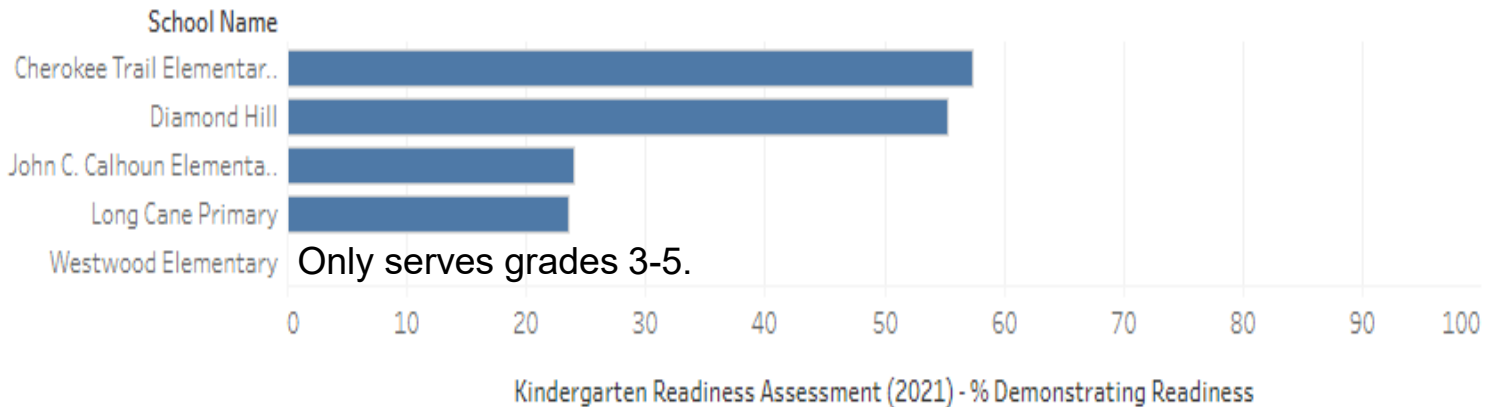
Abbeville County has a Kindergarten Ready Rate of 36%.

## **2. Quality enhancement for local childcare centers: Addressing Child Care Desert in Abbeville County**

## **3. Expand Nurturing Parenting Home Visitation Program**

# Priority One: Kindergarten Ready Rate

SC B-5 Early Childhood Needs Assessment  
[SC B-5 Early Childhood Needs Assessment Data | Tableau Public](#)



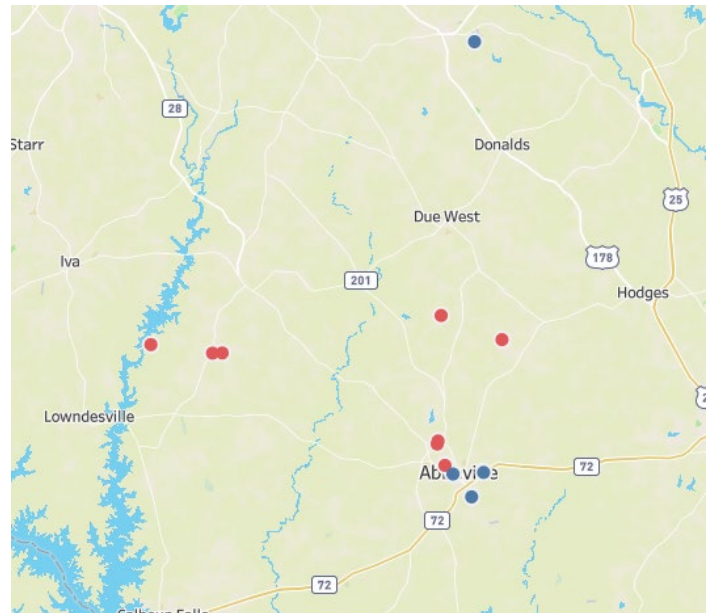
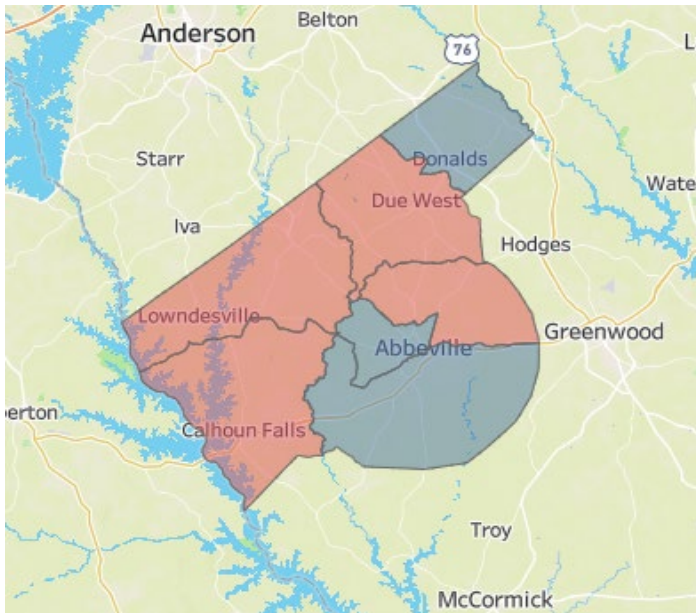
Abbeville County First Steps will impact school readiness by increasing the number of children participating in the Countdown to Kindergarten Program. This program will be reintroduced to Abbeville County this summer.

Abbeville County First Steps would like to raise these percentages across the board to help ensure every child arriving at kindergarten has the best possible chance for success. These fundamental years of education are critical in a child's development for lifelong learning.

## Priority Two: Child Care Desert

### More than 50% of Abbeville County is considered to be a childcare desert.

Provider location and center capacity obtained from [schildcare.org](https://www.schildcare.org) on October 16, 2022. Definition of a child care desert obtained from the Center for American Progress, "A child care desert is any census tract with more than 50 children under age 5 that contains either no child care providers or so few options that there are more than three times as many children as licensed child care slots" (<https://www.childcaredeserts.org/>). Population under age 5 by census tract obtained from the American Community Survey 2016-2020 Five Year Estimates (Table B01001). US Census Bureau. Calculations done by Chelsea Richard of South Carolina First Steps (October 16, 2022).



Abbeville County First Steps would like to ensure the childcare centers operating in Abbeville County have quality training and adequate certifications each and every year. The goal is to assist these businesses to remain compliant so that they can continue serving children and families within the county. Keeping child development centers open is a priority due to the limited number of centers that are available that impact kindergarten readiness.

# Priority Three: Nurturing Parenting

[Investigations Services - Report Viewer \(sc.gov\)](#)

Age Range (in Years)	State	Abbeville	% of Total
<b>Total Open Investigations</b>	<b>4789</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0.418%</b>
<b>Total Children</b>	<b>11170</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>0.466%</b>
0 - 6	4236	29	0.685%
7 - 12	3898	15	0.385%
13 - 17	3036	8	0.264%

Abbeville County First Steps would like to connect families of preschool children with services designed to strengthen families and promote optimal child development.

Abbeville County First Steps will partner with local DSS to receive referrals for families who have the highest risk factors. Currently Abbeville County DSS has 20 open investigations. Children between the ages of 0-6 have the highest percentage 0.685% of open cases.

Abbeville County First Steps would like to also implement the Connected Families program to help reduce the number of reoccurring DSS cases in families.

By 2025 Abbeville County First Steps would like to see the Nurturing Parenting Program grow from a minimum of 15 families to 20 families.



# Next Steps



### PLAN

Write the partnership's three-year Strategic Plan using the Needs Assessment

March 2023 – May 2023



### APPLY

Utilize the Strategic Plan to inform the partnership's Annual Formula Funding Grant Application

May 2023, May 2024, May 2025



### IMPLEMENT

Execute the programs and services outlined in the Strategic Plan

July 2023 – June 2026



### MONITOR

Track the partnership's progress on implementing programs to fidelity and on achieving the Strategic Plan

July 2023 – June 2026